Johnson on Freedom

Here are the President's views on freedom of speech, voiced yesterday in response to a news conference question:

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. . . I think that this Administration profits from the suggestions and recommendations of leaders in other branches of Government, from men who occupy public platforms, from general discussion. I think that is the strength of the American system, instead of a weakness. I am hopeful that every person will always exercise the free speech that the Constitution guarantees him and I would prefer, of course, that it be constructive and that it be responsible and I think generally that has been true.

I am glad that I live in a nation where, in the midst of conflict, when men are dying to preserve our freedom, that our citizens still do not fear to exercise it and I can assure you that they do exercise it.